

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006940

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 6940 ACTION KUWAIT INFO ABU DHABI
BEIRUT KHAHRAN JIDDA MANAMA TEHRAN 11 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, KU, XF

SUBJECT: KUWAIT REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GULF POLLUTION

REF: (A) KUWAIT 0055 (NOTAL) (B) TEHRAN 0211 (NOTAL)

1. WE THINK REFTTEL (B) SUCCINCTLY AND ACCURATELY PREDICTS
WHAT OFFICIAL IRANIAN POSITION ON PERSIAN GULF NAME
QUESTION WILL BE IN RESPONSE TO ANY EFFORT -- EITHER ARAB
OR THIRD PARTY -- TO AFFECT COMPROMISE ENABLING SUBJECT
CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE. ALTHOUGH GOK MAY HAVE HAD
REASON TO ASSUME GULF NOMENCLATURE PROBLEM COULD BE OVER-
COME, IRANIANS AT LEAST NOW SEEM SET TO REVERT TO THEIR
TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE, AND WE MUST THEREFORE
ASSUME GOI ATTACHES HIGHER PRIORITY TO POLITICAL/PSYCHOLOGI-
CAL POLEMIC THAN TO DISCUSSION OF GULF'S ECOLOGY.

2. GIVEN LONG HISTORY OF THIS ARGUMENT WE UNFORTUNATELY
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SEE NO RPT NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT ANY BLANDISHMENTS FROM
WASHINGTON TO TEHRAN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING

LATTER'S ATTITUDE IN SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE SCHEDULED
OPENING OF CONFERENCE. KUWAITIS, FOR THEIR PART, CAN
FIRMLY ASSERT THAT, BY ACCEPTING WORDING OTHER THAN
"ARABIAN GULF," THEY HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS
TO COMPROMISE. THUS, WE THINK THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED
FOR U.S. THROUGH MEDIATORY EFFORTS ON THIS PARTICULAR

PROBLEM BY OUR EMBASSIES IN TEHRAN AND KUWAIT.

3. PLEASE KEEP ADDRESSEE POSTS -- PLUS EMBASSY
ISLAMABAD AND CONGEN KARACHI (CAO PASS HIGGINS) -- ADVISED
RE GOK PLANS EITHER TO CANCEL OR TO GO FORWARD WITH GULF
POLLUTION CONFERENCE. SHOULD CONFERENCE BE CANCELLED,
DR. HIGGINS, WHO OPERATING ON TIGHT SCHEDULE, WILL NOT
RPT NOT VISIT KUWAIT BUT WILL DEVOTE EXTRA TIME TO
COMMITMENTS IN PAKISTAN AND EGYPT.

4. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL (A): FSO RICHARD W. BOGOSIAN IS
HEREBY DESIGNATE ALTERNATE US OBSERVER TO KUWAIT
REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GULF POLLUTION. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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